

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 2nd day of April 1923, the hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT presiding.

I

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

With reference to resolution No. 168 passed by the Legislative Council on the 13th December 1921, the SECRETARY laid on the table a list of appointments on Rs. 500 and above created between 1st December 1922 and 28th February 1923.*

II

THE MADRAS HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL, 1922—*cont.*

The consideration of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, 1922, was resumed.

Clause 44.

(Amendment No. 157.)

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Sir, I beg to move—

Between the words 'professes' and 'the Hindu religion' insert the words 'and practices'.

"It is no doubt true, Sir, that in the case of the Commissioners a similar amendment was lost. But this is quite a different thing; and I submit with due deference that the trustee of a temple must not merely be a person professing the Hindu religion but must also be a Hindu, i.e., he must practice the customs pertaining to his caste according to the Hindu religion. It was no doubt said, Sir, the other day, that the Government would have to employ a number of detectives to find out whether a person was really practising the Hindu religion or not. I submit that no kind of detective is necessary for finding out a person who is actually a Hindu. No detective will be necessary, and I shall be glad to render any assistance, if in the choice of a trustee it is necessary to find out whether a particular applicant is a true Hindu or not. I submit, Sir, that it is very necessary in the case of a trustee who will be in close touch with the several rites, ceremonies and practices of a temple that he must be a person practising the Hindu religion."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, I have already explained my difficulties with respect to this question in connexion with a similar amendment. My hon. friend, Mr. Narasimhacharlu, offers himself to be a detective. Well, I should have welcomed him had it not been for the fact that he might have his own standard as to who is a Hindu and who is not. If we apply a standard fixed in the Bill there will be no difficulty. The real difficulty is that it is such a difficult task to gauge and find out who is practising Hinduism and who is not. Hence it is impossible to accept this amendment."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I beg to submit that I am not at all convinced by his arguments."

The amendment was put and lost.